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P.O. Box 861
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June 11, 1998

CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

JUN 12 1998

Attn: Rick Breitenbach

This writer's exposure to CALFED information and proposed alternatives has been limited to the Programmatic EIS/EIR Executive Summary, the Phase II Interim Report, newspaper reports and attendance at meetings including the one at Chico on May 7th. Nevertheless, that should be sufficient for a person to gain an understanding of the underlying concepts that are involved in the CALFED program.

Limit Exports

As noted on page 1 of the Phase II Interim Report, the Bay-Delta is the hub of California's two largest water distribution systems, the Central Valley Project (CVP) and the State Water Project (SWP). Those two projects, by exporting water from the Delta, have been major contributors to deteriorating conditions in the Delta. This writer contends that, although the CVP and SWP might have positive attributes in such matters as water storage and flood control, they have been the equivalent of a poison pill as far as the Delta is concerned. If this be the case, to compound the situation by exporting **more** water from the Delta than is now customarily being exported would seem to be inflicting injury upon injury. This writer strongly urges CALFED to adopt a recommendation that **additional** water not be exported out of the Delta. The best assurance that this would be the case would be through the limitation of the physical capabilities of conveyance systems and export pumps. The function of those facilities has been to enable the export of water southward to the San Joaquin Valley and to the huge megalopolis in the Los Angeles basin.

Open Ended Population Growth

The Phase II Interim Report mentions on various pages the anticipated population increases (pages 19 and 71). In the main, the Report treats the expected growth as inevitable when it is not. The engine driving the growth is massive immigration from other countries, legal and illegal, coupled with the larger number of children associated with those immigrants. This immigration situation is largely established at the federal level and is not amenable to state control. Nevertheless, the factors contributing to state population growth in the coming years are not immutable, and CALFED should say so, clearly and frequently. Tens of billions of California taxpayer dollars are involved, saved under some conditions, not saved under still other conditions. Not to present this information is a disservice to the citizens of the state. The Interim Report perpetuates the idea that growth is inevitable. In addition, CALFED should point out the water problems that can be

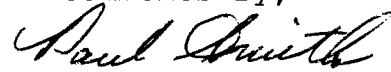
(Paul Smith)

anticipated if population growth is not eventually checked.

Who Decides?

The Programmatic EIS/EIR Executive Summary states (page 3), "Phase II will conclude with the selection of a preferred program alternative..." This statement is repeated on page 160 of the Phase II Interim Report. Both of these statements are passive in structure and leave it to the reader's imagination as to who will do the selecting. Speakers at the CALFED Chico meeting indicated that selection of a preferred alternative would be done by high-level officials. A tentative selection in this manner might be appropriate, but a selection of such magnitude should be confirmed or rejected by a vote of citizens of the state. Why in the world should such a decision, with such potential impact on the lives of all California residents, be done by a few high-level officials?

Comments By,



Paul Smith

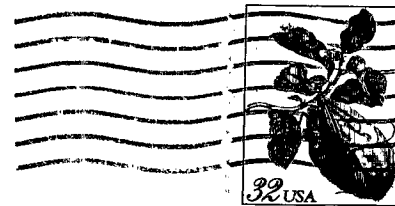
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DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES
SACRAMENTO

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